

EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
LINGUISTICS DOCTORAL SCHOOL

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

**Study of *The Sound and Meaning of*  
*The Flower Ornament Sutra*  
in the Korean Version**

**Zhichun Luo**

Thesis supervisor: Prof. Imre Hamar

2018

# Summary

## 1. Methodology

### 1) Combining the Research Methods of Philology and Linguistics

As we know, the selection of literature is very important to the research process and results. Taking the Korean edition as the main source, and checking the Huilin 慧琳, Qisha 磧砂 and Jinzang 金藏 editions, this dissertation provides a further overview on the edition system of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* 新譯華嚴經音義 and compares all these editions to study the features of phonology, vocabulary and character in *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*. On occasion, this dissertation collates the phonology, characters and foreign words through Sanskrit.

### 2) Combining Diachronic and Synchronic Research Methods

The sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra plays an important role in the history of Chinese development. On the one hand, the linguistic phenomenon of the sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra is a historical evolution from the ancient to the Tang 唐 dynasty, on the other hand, the sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra reflects the features of use of language. The edition of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* reflecting changes within a certain time span, coupled with explaining the sound and meaning in the language of the day, this dissertation combines diachronic and synchronic research methods to study the differences between editions, and differences in phonology, character and vocabulary in *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*.

### 3) Combining the Research Methods of Benzheng (本證)<sup>1</sup> and Pangzheng (旁證)<sup>2</sup>

There are inconsistent occurrences in Huiyuan's 慧苑 work and this dissertation also includes the examination of those inconsistencies through a comparative analysis of the characters from front and back that stresses out the incorrect ones. For the

---

<sup>1</sup> It means looking for evidence in *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*.

<sup>2</sup> It means looking for evidence in other books.

research process, it is necessary to adopt the method of pangzheng, namely by comparing Huiyuan's work to other classics. Indeed, Huiyuan cites a large number of characters, rhymes, dictionaries, and other linguistic reference books, as well as Confucian, Taoist, legalist, and other classics such as Buddhist sutras, which are both a part of the contents of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*, and a rich set of materials for pangzheng. As a result, the accuracy of the comparison benefits from combining benzhen 本證 and pangzheng, as well as classics and sutras.

## **2. The main content of the dissertation**

This doctoral dissertation focuses on *the Sound and Meaning of the Flower Adornment Sutra* of the Korean version, also known as *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* authored by Huiyuan. Through the thorough study of the vocabulary, the six chapters of this dissertation present the detailed analysis of the content, the style, the editing choices, as well as the spread of the work and its significance.

Following the introductory chapter, Chapter 2 recounts the life and work of Huiyuan, the new translated version of *The Flower Adornment Sutra* as well as the content of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*, the different editions in Buddhist sutra and Confucian classics, and concludes by discussing the spread of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* in China, Korea, Japan, Russia, and in the United States of America.

Chapter 3 examines the style of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* from entries, phonetic notations, paraphrases, characters, comments, and citation, which could be considered the basis for the collation of sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra.

Chapter 4 concentrates on the analysis of the features and significance of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*. Since it is a book designed to cover the sounds and meanings of a single sutra, *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* is consequently shorter, but nevertheless reflects its practicality, expansibility and extensity, and plays a significant role in the field of research on characters, phonology, exegetics, and philology.

The following chapter centers on the vocabulary used by *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*. From the findings of the research on the sounds and meanings of Buddhist sutra, a conclusion can be drawn. Indeed, these sounds and meanings in Buddhist sutra studies mainly concern *Xuanying Yinyi* 玄應音義 and *Huilin Yinyi* 慧琳音義. So far, few researches have covered the study of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*, not to mention the lack of academic attention toward its phonological value. As the sounds and meanings of Buddhist sutras to a single sutra, the values of special times that *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* expresses cannot be doubted. A description of new words or meanings, foreign words, dialects, colloquial words, and cultural words in *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* can fill the void of the research on middle Chinese vocabulary. This research also found that the entries, notes, and comments by Huiyuan display a distinct characteristic of bisyllablization. To a certain extent, it indicates that bisyllablization is the mainstream of middle Chinese, which is strongly supported by both Confucian and Buddhist classics.

Finally, chapter 6 examines the versions of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* as they are collected in the *Korean Tripitaka*, based on the Qisha 磧砂, Jinzang 金藏, and Huilin 慧琳 editions. Qiao Hui (2005) compiled the Korean edition and has published it recently. However, his work is mostly seen as a list of four variants. This dissertation points out the correct and disputable aspects of the Korean edition including character forms, phonetic notations, citation issues, missing and redundant characters, as well as reversed texts, to name a few. When the right or correct version remains unsure or problematic, a preference is suggested. Compared with the previous collation, the work of this dissertation has greater breadth, deeper depth and more reference value. In addition, other research work of this thesis is also based on the collation, so chapter 6 can be said to be the basis of the whole research and be of vital importance.

### **3. Main results of the dissertation**

Since the introduction of Buddhism into China, Buddhism has gradually integrated into Chinese culture and become an integral part of Chinese culture. The translation of Buddhist sutras and related texts also affected all aspects of the social development in China, including the Chinese language. The sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra is a product of the spread and development of Buddhist sutras in China. It can be said that the texts in the sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra are more convincing in reflecting the evolution of the language than the Buddhist scriptures themselves. The vocabulary of the sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra objectively reflects the general picture of the development and evolution of modern Chinese vocabulary, people can truly understand the new composition in the process of growth, and observe the dynamic changes and the change process of the new word and new meaning.

Over 1200 items are explained in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* showing that the Chinese language was in a transitional period from ancient to middle ancient, and then entered the modern historical stage. Moreover, the era when Huiyuan lived was at the time of the formation of modern Chinese and the lexical explanations often reflect the development of ancient Chinese and truthfully record some common language spoken at the time, which both objectively reflect the general states of the dynamic evolution of ancient and modern words in the Tang dynasty.

According to the comprehensive study of the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* in this dissertation, the words in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* reflect the following characteristics of development during the Tang dynasty: 1) With the extensive spread of Buddhism, the introduction of new concepts into Chinese has brought new words and new meanings. 2) When foreign words entered Chinese, they conform to the characteristics of Chinese words and the rules of word formation to compose words were used. 3) The Sinicization of loanwords mainly adopts the method of disyllabic word formation, which conforms to the trend of the development of Chinese words. 4) The two morphemes of disyllabics in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* still reflect the phenomenon that the degree of union is not so close and, 5) Buddhist sutras absorb a

large number of vernacular words and dialectal words to promote the spread of Buddhism.

There are still some problems to be solved in this thesis, for example, the use of original Buddhist texts is not enough. On the basis of the current research results on the language of Buddhist sutras, scholars have demonstrated that as an important supplement to Chinese literature, the Buddhist corpus is of great value in the study of the history of the Chinese language. Based on the study of linguistic phenomena in *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*, this thesis goes back to the topic where it comments on *The Flower Adornment Sutra*, but there is a problem: ignoring the original texts, and the solution largely depends on traditional exegesis, philology, phonology. The method of comparing the original Buddhism sutras can be used to investigate the components of the translated text being independent of the original text and the special components being affected by the original text, and to further clarify the source of the language content of the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* in the development, and as a research idea to examine the language of the whole sound and meaning of Buddhist sutra, especially vocabulary development.

The extensiveness of the comparative analysis is not enough. This thesis studies the lexical system of *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* and examines the errors in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* in the Korean Tripitaka from the perspective of linguistics. During the process of examination, some differences between the quotations of Huiyuan and the original sources, such as differences of wordage, deletion of the original text, adding to the original text, generalization of the original source by Huiyuan's personal memory, even confusing one title of the quotation with another, have been discovered. However, a synthesis of all the quotations is not provided in his thesis.

According to the references in the present work, there are about 20 character dictionaries, rhythm dictionaries and lexicographical books cited. Some of these cited books are still in circulation, and some have been lost, such as *Cangjie Pian* 蒼頡篇, *Tongsu Wen* 通俗文, *Picang* 埤蒼, *Shenglei* 聲類, *Ziyuan* 字苑, *Zilin* 字林, *Wenzi*

*Jilüe* 文字集略, *Yunying* 韻英, and *Zitong* 字統 as well as *Zishu* 字書 written by unknown author, etc. Scholars in the Qing dynasty have noticed the value of this type of philological study in the FJYY and made some records. However, the literatures before the Tang dynasty mentioned in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* have not been systematically and comprehensively sorted out, which is an important part to be paid attention to in the research.

Taking the important academic value of analysis into account, it is necessary to compare the original source of the main character dictionaries, rhythm dictionaries and lexicographical works to the quotations in Huiyuan's work by combining linguistic and philological methods. For instance, *Guangya* 廣雅 is cited 88 times in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi*, which is only less than the quotation times of *Shuowen* 說文 and *Yupian* 玉篇. However, *Guangya* was lost in the circulation. The earliest extant edition is block-printed during the Song dynasty, and the more common one is the edition collected in *Siku Quanshu* 四庫全書. The *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* I was written in the middle of the Tang dynasty period, and the *Guangya* quoted is earlier than the extant version. If the content of the *Guangya* quoted in the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* is sorted out and studied, it can play a supplementary role to the *Guangya* in *Siku Quanshu*, and the significance of doing that research is beyond doubt. Due to time limitations, this thesis does not sort out the quotations of the *Xinyi Huayanjing Yinyi* so the work needs future research.

#### 4. References

- Chen Yuan 陈垣 (1947): "Xuanying Huiyuan Liang Yinyi Helun" 玄應慧苑兩音義合論, *Jingshi Ribao·Dushu Zhoukan* 經世日報・讀書周刊 39.
- Chen Yuanyuan 陳源源 (2006): "Miaofa Lianhuajing Shiwen suo yin Hui Yuan Huayanjing Yinyi Kao" 《妙法蓮華經釋文》所引慧苑《華嚴經音義》考. *Hanyushi Xuebao (Diliu Ji)* 漢語史學報, 第 6 輯. Shanghai, Shanghai Jiaoyu Chubanshe.

- Huang Renxuan 黃仁瑄 (2009): “Gaoli Zangben Huiyuan Yinyi yin *Shuowen* de Yan Tuo Wu Wenti” 高麗藏本慧苑音義引《說文》的衍、脫、誤問題, *Yuyan Yanjiu* 語言研究 4, 70-75.
- Huang Renxuan and Nie Wanxin 黃仁瑄, 聶宛忻 (2007): “Huiyuan Yinxi Shengniu de Yanjiu” 慧苑音系聲紐的研究, *Guhanyu Yanjiu* 古漢語研究 3, 20-24.
- Liu Chunsheng 劉春生 (1992): “Huiyuan ji *Huayanjing* Yinyi de Jidian Kaozheng” 慧苑及《華嚴經音義》的幾點考證. *Guizhou Daxue Xuebao* 貴州大學學報 2, 65-68.
- Miao Yu 苗昱 (2005): *Huayan Yinyi Yanjiu* 《華嚴音義》研究. Doctoral Dissertation of Suzhou University.
- Miao Yu and Tao Jiajun 苗昱, 陶家俊 (2005): “*Huayan Yinyi Shenglei Kao*” 《華嚴音義》聲類考. *Suzhou Daxue Xuebao* 蘇州大學學報 2, 74-77.
- Mizutani Shinjo (1958): “Huiyuan Yinyi Yinyun Kao” 慧苑音義音韻考. *Dagu Daxue Yanjiu Nianbao* 大谷大學研究年報, 11.
- Xu Shiyi 徐時儀 (2010): “*Huayan Yinyi Yin Qieyun Kao*” 華嚴音義引切韻考. *Nanyang Shifan Xueyuan Xuebao* 南陽師範學院學報 9, 33-35.
- Yu Lixian 俞莉嫻 (2015): “*Huiyuan Yinyi Keben yu Xiejuan Kao*” 《慧苑音義》刻本與寫卷考. *Wenxian* 文獻 2, 3-11.